



# ANGFA

## 2003 NATIONAL CONVENTION

25 - 26 October, Brisbane



# CONVENTION 2003 PROGRAMME

## FRIDAY EVENING

|             |                                   |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| 7.00 - 8.00 | Pre-AGM drinks                    |
| 7.00 - 7.30 | Convention registration           |
| 8.00        | ANGFA Inc. Annual General Meeting |

## SATURDAY

**8.00 - 8.45 Registration and coffee**

Session Chairperson: Derek Girkin

|              |                                                           |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 8.45 - 9.10  | Convention opening                                        |
| 9.10 - 9.50  | Bruce Hansen<br><i>"Getting your feet wet with ANGFA"</i> |
| 9.50 - 10.20 | Doug Collom<br><i>"A Challenge to ANGFA Members"</i>      |

**10.20 - 11.00 Morning Tea**

Session Chairperson: Rob Wager

|               |                                                                     |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11.00 - 11.15 | Gerry Allen<br><i>"Unknown Islands of PNG"</i>                      |
| 11.15 - 11.45 | Glenn Leiper                                                        |
| 11.45 - 12.30 | Steve Baines<br><i>"The 10 Golden Rules to Prize Winning Tanks"</i> |

**12.30 - 1.30 Lunch**

Session Chairperson: Bruce Hansen

|             |                                                           |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.30 - 2.15 | Gary Lange<br><i>"The Hobby in USA"</i>                   |
| 2.15 - 3.00 | Bruce Sambell<br><i>"Catching Them and Breeding Them"</i> |

**3.00 - 3.40 Afternoon tea**

Session Chairperson: Jeff Gunston

|             |                                                                |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.40 - 4.40 | Gunther Schmida<br><i>"Australia's Not So Cuddly Critters"</i> |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|

|              |                   |
|--------------|-------------------|
| 5.00 - 6.00  | Pre-dinner drinks |
| 6.00 - 8.00  | Dinner            |
| 8.00 - 10.00 | Auction           |

## SUNDAY

**8.15 - 8.45 Registration and coffee**

Session Chairperson: Heidy Rubin

|              |                                                   |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 8.45 - 9.00  | Norbert Grunwald<br><i>"A Weekend with ANGFA"</i> |
| 9.00 - 9.40  | Greg Ure<br><i>"Fishtank Filtration"</i>          |
| 9.40 - 10.20 | Franz-Peter Mullenholz<br><i>"The Kimberleys"</i> |

**10.20 - 11.00 Morning tea**

Session Chairperson: Monty Heidke

|               |                                                                           |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11.00 - 11.15 | Greg Ure<br><i>"Fish Slides"</i>                                          |
| 11.15 - 12.00 | Chris Marshall<br><i>"River health"</i>                                   |
| 12.00 - 12.30 | Toni Radcliffe & Susan King<br><i>"University of Queensland Research"</i> |

**12.30 - 1.30 Lunch**

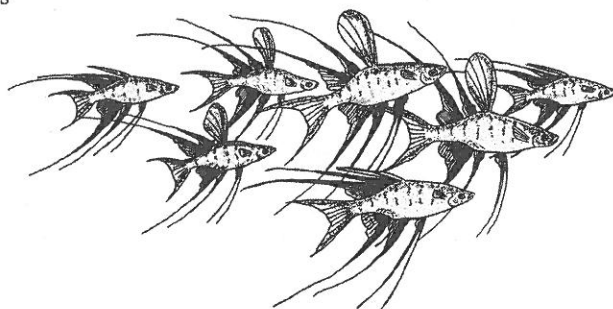
Session Chairperson: Doug Collom

|             |                                                      |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.30 - 2.15 | Gary Lange & Bruce Sambell<br><i>"Fish Classics"</i> |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------|

**3.00 - 3.40 Afternoon tea**

Session Chairperson: Bruce Hansen

|             |                                                                    |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.40 - 4.40 | Gunther Schmida<br><i>"The Little Aussie Freshwater Fish Show"</i> |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|



# TWENTY YEARS ON

The year of 2003 marks the 20th anniversaries of both ANGFA Queensland, and ANGFA's national journal "Fishes of Sahul".

Some of the original ANGFA Queensland members from 1983 are here with us this weekend, some of them presenting segments of this program.

The Program Planning Committee, Bruce Hansen and Doug Collom, have attempted to focus on presentations directly relevant to the activities of ANGFA members. Join with us in celebrating our first twenty years over the course of this historic weekend.

## TWENTY YEARS OF ANGFA QUEENSLAND INC.

ANGFA Queensland basically began at the same time the National Association was started - following the visit of Graham Heidke and Adrian Tappin to Melbourne in late 1982. However, the concept of a national organisation began much earlier than that. The idea was a regular topic of discussion between Graham Heidke and Adrian Tappin from Queensland and Ron Turner and Neil Armstrong from Victoria. Ron and Neil were regular travelers to Queensland for a number of years prior to the inaugural meeting at Melbourne and usually met with Graham and Adrian for barbeques in the Ipswich suburb of Dinmore.

Initially, it was not planned to have an official regional group in Queensland as there were quite a number of aquarium societies already established and it was thought that there would not be enough interest to support another. An approach was made to the Aquarium and Terrarium Society of Queensland to have a "Native Fish Study Group", similar to one which operated as part of the Eastern Districts Aquarium Society in Victoria. Unfortunately, or as history has shown, fortunately there was no imminent interest shown by the A&T Society so the plan was abandoned. However, due to the persistent nature of Gordon Hides, it was decided to start a group with regular meetings being held in private homes.

In early 1983, the first meeting was attended by approximately five people and was held at the home of Adrian Tappin in Manly, thus a Queensland Regional Group was born. It was to become known as the "ANGFA South-East Queensland Regional Group" (SEQRG). Meetings were organised for the last Friday of each month to be held at different

members' homes on a rotating schedule. At a later meeting it was decided that if this young organisation was to grow it would need a permanent meeting place, so the group moved into its first public location at the Sherwood State School, with meetings held bi-monthly.

Early office bearers were Graham Heidke, Adrian Tappin, Glenn Leiper, Rod Campbell and Bruce Hansen - while later Adrian Dawson, Peter Surmon and Doug Collom were prominent. It is encouraging to find that most of them are still actively involved today. Membership was offered to any person with an interest in the fishes of Australia and New Guinea, although species from New Guinea were few and far between in those days. Habitat surveying was to be a major part of the groups' activities as it was believed that much more information was needed on our native fishes. Attempts were made to attract regular speakers to the meetings on subjects as diverse as research, biology, ecology, conservation and aquarium management including the practical and theoretical aspects of aquaculture and aquatic science. Membership fees were set at twelve dollars.

In the latter part of 1984 we became a founding member of the newly formed Queensland Federation of Aquarium Societies (QFAS) and in April 1985, we had our first public display at the "Hobby and Trade Show" held at the Chandler Sports Complex. Membership increased slowly and by the end of 1985 there were only 20 members. During the mid to late 90's membership stabilised with an annual average of 120 members. The South-East Queensland Regional Group continued to grow, never missing the opportunity to promote itself and the native fish hobby, all be it with rather primitive promotional material compared to what one finds today, but it apparently did the job.

In June 1985 the first official "Newsletter" was produced under the professional guidance of one Jarvis Finger, (the only "Finger" in Moggill) and was welcomed by the general membership. The newsletter had regular columns on Club News, Breeding Natives, Feeding Natives, Books, and Keeping & Caring. In 1989, Bruce Hansen, Sue Smith, Adrian and Fran Dawson took over the newsletter reigns as publication committee following the departure of Jarvis Finger. The publication of a regular newsletter in the intervening months with bi-monthly meetings was a major factor contributing to the success story of the SEQRG.

The Sherwood State School continued to be our official meeting place, but because of increasing

membership, it became obvious that we would have to move to larger quarters. In February 1989 a new location was found and meetings moved to the Nundah Municipal Library. However, this location was quickly outgrown and in June 1989, another move was made to our present location at the Bar-Jai Clubrooms in Clayfield.

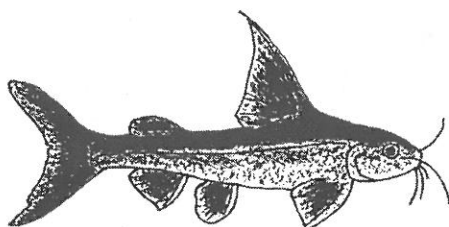
1990 was a big year in the history of the South-East Queensland Regional Group as we were sponsors of the third National ANGFA Conference in Brisbane.

As the National Organisation was not incorporated and with the interest of Queensland members paramount, it was decided that the Group should be incorporated before running the Conference. So on the Eighth day of February 1990, the South-East Queensland Regional Group became incorporated and became known officially as ANGFA Queensland Inc. Thus another chapter was written into Queensland history.

1992-1993 also proved historic years - attendances at the bi-monthly meetings continued to increase and field trips which have become a regular feature of ANGFA Queensland were well attended. Highlights were the "Pet and Hobby Expo", where members' efforts were rewarded by winning the coveted "Best Club Display" for two consecutive years. 1993 was also the year that our Newsletter took on a new look under the capable command of Barry Meiklejohn. The advent of Barry with his desktop skills and flair lifted our newsletter to unsurpassed heights. Changes in Barry's lifestyle brought on by employment and family changes saw Adrian Tappin become editor of InStream, which he has succeeded in enhancing to be a leader in publications in aquarium world. Instream is now prepared in colour, and is available to members on-line in colour. The standard black and white edition is posted to members before each ANGFA Queensland meeting.

The success of ANGFA Queensland reflects the contributions of the many members who helped along the way, not just those few already mentioned.

In 1994 and in 1998, ANGFA Queensland sponsored successful National Conventions here in Brisbane. We are hoping that this convention promotes as much knowledge, comradery and fun as our previous efforts.



## TWENTY YEARS OF FISHES OF SAHUL

One of the early aims for the newly formed national group was to produce a journal. The proposed publication became a stumbling block when insufficient funds to publish were available from the initial membership subscriptions. A one-off "Foundation Membership" was offered which garnered a further 56 extra subscriptions and the money proved sufficient to cover the first years publications.

It was during the second meeting of the group that the association gained its name. Proposed by newcomer, Ron Bowman, the name "Australia New Guinea Fishes Association" promoted recognition of the endemic fish of the region as the group's interest. The proposed journal also needed a title and after Graham Thompson researched the word Sahul (the descriptive title for the combined land masses of Australia and New Guinea during periods of lowered sea levels), the title "Fishes of Sahul" was adopted.

Ken Smales, a career typesetter, offered his professional assistance to the publications team and has provided many years of service to ANGFA and its publications. A number of other members assisted in the early days when photographs were hand pasted into each issue prior to distribution to the membership. The first issue of "Fishes of Sahul" which became ANGFA's national journal was published with the July-September edition in 1983.

Much work has been done in recent years by Mark Chettle and Rudie Kuiter who have introduced a great deal of technology and expertise into advancing "Fishes of Sahul" into the full colour production we know today. Currently at issue 17, with over 950 pages of original information and colour plates of fish and habitats makes "Fishes of Sahul" unique, and one of the longest running publications on the native fishes of Sahul.

Over the years there have been many contributors from local, national and international hobbyists and scientists to provide the special blend and balance for which this journal is famous. The value of the information is widely recognised in scientific papers and articles from "Fishes of Sahul" are frequently included in the reference lists appended to those papers.

We congratulate ANGFA Inc. on "Fishes of Sahul" and hope to see many more issues produced to maintain the supply of quality information and illustrations.



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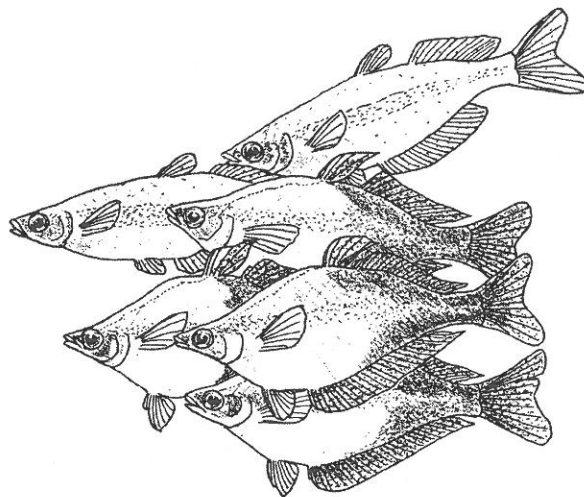
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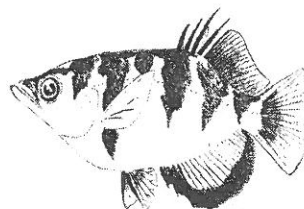
# THANKS

Over the last four years since ANGFA Queensland last hosted the ANGFA National Convention in Brisbane, many people have helped towards bringing this years event to fruition.

There are too many individuals to mention by name, and most would prefer not to be in the limelight, but they have attended meetings, offered valuable suggestions and experience and chased up support.

Others too have given of their valuable family time to help the association with the numerous convention related chores which range from such things as programming, producing the convention booklet, selling raffle tickets to speaking, merchandising and auctioneering.

To all those who have helped - a big "Thanks!!"



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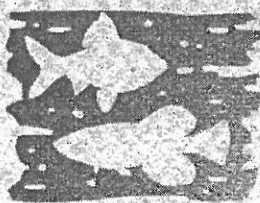
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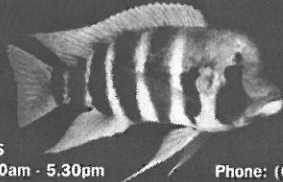


# GUEST SPEAKERS

## GERRY ALLEN

Dr Gerald Allen needs no introduction to rainbow-fish enthusiasts world wide. Gerry is a patron of ANGFA, and author of numerous books on Australian freshwater fish, as well as marine species. Gerry was originally to be with us this year. Unfortunately however, his work with the Conservation International has called him away. A continuing survey on fish of the coral reefs of north-east Borneo was rescheduled from August to October, and Gerry is committed to that work.

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## STEVE BAINES

Steve is an aquarist of over thirty years experience. He has managed and owned aquarium shops and is well regarded in the industry. Over the years Steve has entered numerous aquarium competitions and established a reputation for stunning attention grabbing displays which won him many prizes.

In recent years he has turned his flair for aquascaping to profit, setting up many public display tanks for private organisations and Government displays. Steve has been, as the Chinese say "living in interesting times" over the last couple of years in his personal life, but he still manages to contribute his knowledge and experience to all who need it.

Steve will be telling us about his approach to aquascaping with his talk, "The 10 Golden Rules of Tank Presentation"

*Guppy's to Puppy's*



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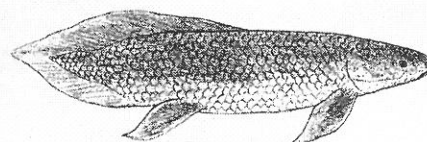
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## DOUG COLLOM

Doug has been a fish keeper for over forty years, and for many years hid from many friends his weird and lonely interest in the native Australian fish he found in our waterways, convinced he was the sole person inflicted with this obsession.

Then in the mid-eighties he found ANGFA, and that he was not alone! Since then, after overcoming his linguistic shortcomings, picking up the ANGFA in-speak about fishes names, he has been involved in ANGFA in several roles in ANGFA Queensland, including his current one of Secretary, and was ANGFA national secretary from 1994 to 2000.

Doug will be speaking about the contribution ANGFA can make to the knowledge of Australian native fish species.



## BRUCE HANSEN

Bruce started catching and keeping fish half way through the last century. He joined ANGFA in 1983, shortly after its inception, when he found some other grown men also enjoyed his hobby. He was national president of ANGFA from 1994 to 2000.

Starting with one tank, Bruce rapidly 'got the bug' and surrounded himself with tanks and ponds. Over the years he has caught and bred many of the fish we see in the hobby today. Bruce is a mainstay contributor to ANGFA publications, at least one article or book review from Bruce gracing most issues.

On the subject of books, Bruce is an ardent collector of books about fish and nature in general. Parts of his home are now taken over by books rather than tanks.

He has participated, and led, many surveying and collecting trips to many parts of Australia, and one to Papua New Guinea. He will be imparting some of the knowledge gained on those expeditions in his talk, "Getting Your Feet Wet With ANGFA."

## GARY LANGE

Gary is a research biochemist for Pfizer in St. Louis. He has been keeping fish since he was 10 and has been associated with the organised hobby for the last twenty-three years. He is a member of the Missouri Aquarium Society (MASI) and has held various positions including '93 show chairman for a show that saw over 5,000 visitors. He is a grand master breeder in MASI, (one of only twelve in the history of the club), and has taken the coveted "Best Fish In Show" on four different occasions, twice with rainbowfish.

In the fall of 1987 he started the Rainbowfish Study Group of North America (RSG). He started in fish photography mainly because there weren't many quality pictures of his beloved rainbowfish. He has had his pictures published in FAMA, TFH and AFM.

Just last summer he imported some brand new rainbowfish from the world explorer, Heiko Bleher. Included in this new list is the Millennium Rainbowfish, Batanta Island rainbowfish and the mini-sized *Melanotaenia parva*.

Gary is currently running about eighty tanks and keeping about thirty varieties of rainbows and blue-eyes.



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## GLENN LEIPER

Glenn Leiper is one of ANGFA Queensland's original members. He served as secretary for some years. Glenn is a teacher, who has always been oriented towards wildlife and the environment, and is currently principal of Queensland Education Department's Jacob's Well Environmental Education Centre.

Glenn has had a long association with various environmental and naturalist groups in south-east Queensland, his special interest being the botanical species of the region. He is also a renowned nature photographer, as well as an author.

He was a major contributor to the recently launched "Mangroves to Mountains" published by the Logan River Branch of the Society for Growing Native Plants.



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## CHRIS MARSHALL

Chris is a freshwater ecologist and has a BSc(Hons) in Zoology. His honours project examined the microscopic structure of fish sperm as a taxonomic tool for understanding the relationship between rainbowfish, blue-eyes and hardyheads. After completing his studies, he worked as a freshwater ecologist at Griffith University for eight years which included investigations into the distribution, ecology and conservation of the Honey Blue-eye.

Chris joined the Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines in 1998 and worked in a team that has been developing the state's river health monitoring practices. The initial focus of this work was on monitoring aquatic macroinvertebrates as indicators of river health but has since broadened to include fish, frogs, aquatic plants, bacteria, primary production and metabolism as indicators of river health.

He joined ANGFA in 1984 and was a Queensland committee member for many years. Eventually fish had to take the back seat to other interests in his life with Chris' contribution to the start of the next generation of pisci-philos...



# GUEST SPEAKERS

## FRANZ-PETER MULLENHOLZ

Franz-Peter has become a regular visitor to ANGFA conventions from his home in Germany.

He works as an EDP Project Manager. He is a long term fishkeeper, for about thirty-seven years, and concentrates on rainbows and guppies. He has been around the world about thirty times, and this is his tenth trip to Australia. He will be accompanied as usual by his wife Ullie.

Franz-Peter is a member of the International Rainbowfish Study Group (IRG), which is a European based group interested in Australian Rainbows.

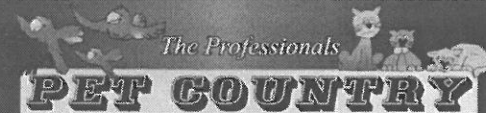
Franz-Peter is a widely experienced presenter of quality multivision shows, featuring fish, trips and nature, using up to sixteen projectors.

Despite his struggles with the English language, particularly as spoken by Australians, this will be his fourth presentation to an ANGFA convention. Franz-Peter will be sharing with us his expedition to the Kimberleys.

## TONI RADCLIFFE

Toni completed her BSc at the University of Queensland in 2000, she worked for eighteen months before returning to do Honours. Her Honours was in the behavioural ecology of freshwater fish and her project examined the impacts of *Gambusia holbrooki* and *Xiphophorus helleri* on *Melanoania duboulayi*. Dr. Kev Warburton supervised the project which was submitted in July 2003, receiving a grade of 1A.

Toni is currently working with the Department of Natural Resources & Mines on the Freshwater Ecosystem Health Monitoring Project.



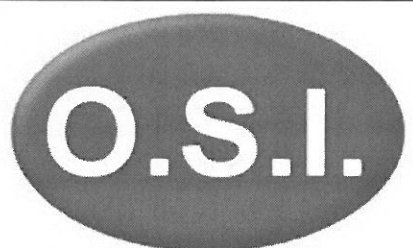
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## BRUCE SAMBELL

Nearly fifty years ago, someone gave Bruce a goldfish. That was it. From then on fish, and the aquatic world they live in, has been the dominant fascination of his life.

Nearing thirty years ago, Bruce left the amateur fish keeper ranks and became a professional fish person, firstly as a sales rep for the wholesale trade, and managing a retail aquarium outlet.

In 1978 he left Melbourne for Sydney, where he owned three aquarium shops. He had by then become hooked on native Australian species, and in 1988, moved again to Queensland, where he established an ornamental fish farm. At 200 acres now the largest of its type in Australia.

Bruce has been President of the Aquaculture Association of Queensland, and sits also on a number of Queensland Government bodies as an industry consultant.

## GUNTHER SCHMIDA

Gunther is renowned as one of Australia's leading wildlife photographers, and is regularly published worldwide in magazines and scientific publications.

Today based at Mudgeeraba, behind the Gold Coast, Gunther was born in Germany, and developed his interest at an early age, keeping fish in his teens, and taking up SCUBA diving and photography before migrating to Australia in 1965.

He has traveled extensively throughout the country, spending some years in Sydney where he co-authored "Australian Freshwater Fishes", and his own book "The Cold Blooded Australians". Earlier this year Gunther toured Europe on a lecture tour, and he will be sharing some of those lectures with us.

## GREG URE

He has been keeping fish since he was a teenager in Newcastle NSW and in Brisbane Queensland. Time spent completing a commerce degree at Queensland University allowed him access to the biological sciences library and encouraged more research about fish.

At a mid eighties AGM of the Queensland Cichlid Group Inc. he volunteered to be editor and still is. For his efforts he has been made a life member of the Queensland Cichlid Group Inc. An ANGFA member for many years, his presentations show some of the many pictures he has taken around Australia and overseas.

### The A-Z of Filtration

Filtration allows more fish to be kept in aquariums. The talk covers many aspects from simple mechanical filtration, biological filtration, and chemical filtration to fishroom systems. As well as the commercial models, the presentation includes examples of many home filters.

### The ANGFA Rainbow

There are many interesting fish that occur on and around Australia. This talk shows some of these and their habitats.



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# ANGFA

## Regional and Affiliated Groups

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PO Box 673  
Ringwood Victoria 3134  
<http://www.angfa.org.au>

President: *Derek Girkin* - 02 4362 7085  
[misterg1@bigpond.com.au](mailto:misterg1@bigpond.com.au)  
Vice President: *Bruce Hansen* - 07 3285 6414  
[bhansen@powerup.com.au](mailto:bhansen@powerup.com.au)  
Secretary: *Heidi Rubin* - 07 3266 3358  
[hrubin@frell.org](mailto:hrubin@frell.org)  
Treasurer: *Glenn Briggs* - 03 5964 3023  
[mogurnda@bigpond.com.au](mailto:mogurnda@bigpond.com.au)  
Memberships: *Damian Walsh* - 03 9332 6436  
[dwalsh@seek.com.au](mailto:dwalsh@seek.com.au)

### ANGFA ACT

PO Box 6  
Civic Square ACT 2608  
*Andy Wattam* - 02 6254 3273  
[awattam@pcug.org.au](mailto:awattam@pcug.org.au)  
*Scott Hunt* - 02 6262 3347  
[snvhunt@asiaonline.net.au](mailto:snvhunt@asiaonline.net.au)

### ANGFA New South Wales

<http://www.angfa-nsw.org>  
President: *Derek Girkin* - 02 4362 7085  
[misterg1@bigpond.com.au](mailto:misterg1@bigpond.com.au)  
Secretary: *Lyn King* - 02 9618 2584  
Memberships: *Lorrain Girkin* - 02 4362 7085

### ANGFA Northern Territory

C/- PO Box 756  
Howard Springs NT 0835  
*Dave Wilson* - 08 8983 1483  
[rwilson@taunet.net.au](mailto:rwilson@taunet.net.au)

### ANGFA Queensland Inc.

PO Box 8135  
Woolloongabba Qld 4102  
<http://www.angfaqld.org.au>  
President: *Bruce Hansen* - 07 3285 6414  
[bhansen@powerup.com.au](mailto:bhansen@powerup.com.au)  
Secretary: *Doug Collom* - 07 3277 7171  
[drc7@optushome.com.au](mailto:drc7@optushome.com.au)  
Treasurer: *Keith Brennan*

### ANGFA Victoria

PO Box 59  
Chirnside Park Victoria 3116  
<http://home.iprimus.com.au/trh/index.html>  
President: *Damian Walsh* - 03 9332 6436  
[damianwalsh@seek.com.au](mailto:damianwalsh@seek.com.au)  
Secretary: *John Cousins*  
[johncousins@ozemail.com.au](mailto:johncousins@ozemail.com.au)  
Treasurer: *Tony Tucceri and Chen Leong*

### ANGFA Western Australia

C/- PO Box 20  
Morley WA 6943  
President: *Ralph Kober* - 0412 291 635  
[ralph.kober@uwa.edu.au](mailto:ralph.kober@uwa.edu.au)  
Liaison Officer: *Syd Adams* - 08 9523 1335

### SANFA Inc.

<http://www.sanfa.org.au>  
President: *Andrew Bock* - 08 8240 0630  
Secretary: *Gavin Rich* - 08 8254 8796  
[garich@senet.com.au](mailto:garich@senet.com.au)  
Treasurer: *Michael Hammer* - 08 8272 7396

### ANGFA of North America

<http://www.rainbowfishes.org>  
Facilitator: *Brian Lang*  
3529 S. Telluride Circle, #F  
Aurora, Co, 80013

### IRG (Europe)

<http://www.aquanet.de/Vereine/IRG>  
President: *Harro Hieronimus*  
[harro.hieronimus@t-online.de](mailto:harro.hieronimus@t-online.de)



# NOTES





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